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interpretation of national and
international news, and
information on the industrial, labor,
and federal labor, and includes
information of local and regional
news service.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C. TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1945

GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

VOL. 35, NO. 16

EDITORIAL

Franklin Delano Roosevelt may go down in history as the architect of world peace or as an outstanding military strategist, but to the men and women of labor in this country he will always stand as the great champion of the cause of the underdog.

To them the true test of his greatness was that he never lost touch with the common man.

It is far too early to attempt to evaluate in terms of lasting importance the vital economic and social reforms instituted by President Roosevelt to strengthen and amplify the American way of life. The list is tremendous. But to the workers of the nation, these measures appear outstanding:

1—The National Recovery Act, which sparked the stalled economic machinery of the nation back into motion and served a highly useful purpose even though it was later invalidated by the Supreme Court.

2—The National Labor Relations Act, regarded as labor's Magna Carta, which gave official blessing to collective bargaining and guaranteed the right of workers to organize and join unions of their own choosing.

3—The Social Security Act, which, though still imperfect, helped to banish the fear of poverty in old age and in temporary unemployment.

4—The Fair Labor Standards Act, which set a floor for wages and a ceiling for working hours and helped protect workers in oppressed industries to escape from starvation conditions.

5—The Federal Deposit Insurance Act, which insured and protected the hard-earned savings of the American people.

These were the big reforms of the Roosevelt Administration. But above and beyond these, was the spirit which initiated them and which was ever ready to give prompt and sympathetic attention to the troubles.

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Pres. Truman pledges to carry on F.D.R.'s Policies; Organized Labor Guarantees Full Support

Green Hails Truman's Ability And Says Labor Will Help Him Win War And Peace

Washington, D. C.—Voicing the united determination of the seven million members of the American Federation of Labor, President William Green met the crisis occasioned by the sudden death of Franklin D. Roosevelt with this pledge to the nation:

"Right now the supreme responsibility of all the American people is clear. We must support President Truman to the fullest extent of our power. We must help him in the great tasks ahead. This is the workers of America will do."

When the shocking news of President Roosevelt's passing reached the nation's capital, Mr. Green issued the following statement to the press:

"President Roosevelt gave his life for his country. It is now the personal duty of every one of us to carry on to a successful conclusion the great goals which he had set his heart's desire—the winning of the war and the establishment of a just and enduring peace. This is the most fitting memorial we can build to the great humanitarian who will forever be regarded by the men and women of labor as their friend and champion."

At midnight last evening, after a round of conferences with Government and labor leaders, Mr. Green went on the air and broadcast over the Mutual System a heart-felt tribute to the nation's great leader.

The following day Mr. Green summoned a special meeting of the resident members of the Executive Council in his office. It was decided to move up the next regular meeting of the council from May 14 to April 30. This meeting will last only one week so that members of the Executive Council may go directly afterwards to the San Francisco Conference on the subject of international security organization. The AFL will send consultants to attend the opening of the conference."

Joining with other labor and industry leaders, Mr. Green took part the next day in a broadcast over the Blue Network of the American Broadcasting Company. He said:

"America's best-known soldier now takes his resting place behind the United States Capitol."

"Franklin D. Roosevelt will forever be revered by the people of all the world as one of the great leaders and peace leaders in history. His military strategy in leading the United States to victory over the foes of human freedom, and his courage at that time of crisis made the weak feel the pain and suffering of the strong. His courage and his vision, his humanity and his faith in the future, have inspired us to the best of our ability."

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FDR

So proudly we hailed this man who can never be forgotten—because he remembered the Forgotten Men.

Through the perilous night his vision was sure, his course certain, his heart unflinching.

So gallantly, so courageously, he faced the trials of our nation.

While we watched from the ramparts, he lifted America out of the worst depression in its history.

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," he said, and those challenging words inspired all America with new hope and courage.

Long before the rocket's red glare had died, we saw the world conflagration, and he had already prepared us for it.

When the bombs burst over Pearl Harbor, America mobilized under his direction into the mightiest armed force the world has ever seen.

Yes, there were doubters, there were chisels, there were critics—but now, with victory almost within our grasp, the Stars and Stripes banner still waves over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

At the twilight's last gleaming, the hostile voices of the east and west have been hushed in reverence.

And in the dawn's early light, with reinforced determination to finish the job that must be done according to his blueprint for tomorrow.

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New President Upholds War And Peace Aims, Promises to Continue Fight For Common Man

Washington, D. C.—President Harry S. Truman, in his first address to Congress, pledged himself to carry out the war and peace policies of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Let me assure the forward-looking people of America," he said, "that there will be no relaxation in our efforts to improve the lot of the common people."

Confident that fate had placed the leadership of the nation in the hands of an able and sincere chief Executive, organized labor enthusiastically offered him its fullest support in the great tasks of winning the war and the peace.

Facing these tasks with a characteristic sense of responsibility and humility, President Truman made it clear that he welcomed and appreciated the united support of labor and all other groups in the nation's life.

Needless to say, the men and women of labor who mourn the death of their great champion, Franklin D. Roosevelt, as a personal loss, were encouraged by his successor's attitude.

Appearing before the assembled members of both branches of Congress, President Truman sternly warned the enemies of the nation:

"Our demand has been—and it remains—unconditional surrender of the enemy."

He served notice on the entire world that the direction of the war effort will remain in the hands of the military leaders chosen by Roosevelt—"unchanged and unhampered."

At the same time, he appealed to all Americans to "support our efforts to build a strong and lasting United Nations organization to establish and safeguard world peace."

Of special interest to labor were the new President's expressions with regard to the social policies of the New Deal. He said:

"Tragic fate has thrust upon us grave responsibilities. We must carry them out."

Our departed leader never looked backward. He looked forward and moved forward. That is what he would want us to do. That is what America will do."

Again he said:

"With great humility, I call upon all Americans to help me keep our nation united in defense of these ideals which have been so eloquently proclaimed by Franklin D. Roosevelt."

"I want in turn, to assure my fellow-Americans and all of those who love peace and liberty throughout the world that I will support and defend those ideals with all my strength and all my heart."

Leaders of the American Federation of Labor, who backed Truman for the Vice Presidential nomination in the last Democratic Convention, were unanimous in praise of his momentous declaration.

President Green said:

"We must support President Truman to the fullest extent of our power. We must help him in the great tasks ahead. This is the workers of America will do."

Mr. Green further predicted:

"He can and will unite America, not only for the consummation of the war effort, but for the inauguration of a postwar program of enduring peace and domestic prosperity."

President Truman gave concrete evidence of his high regard for organized labor while serving as chairman of the Senate War Investigating Committee. After having examined all the facts, this committee warmly praised labor's contributions to the war effort in a single annual report.

Mr. Truman also indicated at that time his desire for a clear and understandable labor policy on the part of the government in a single central agency. This course has been repeatedly advocated by the AFL.

As a further indication of his friendly feeling toward the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Truman participated in an AFL-sponsored radio program last week after he became President.

In that talk he predicted high production and full employment within a short time after the war ends.

Truman's Fine Stand on Labor Matters Revealed by His Public Record

Washington, D. C.—How does President Harry S. Truman stand on labor matters? Let the record speak.

His record as a United States Senator, before he became President, was a record of support for labor's interests in the problems of labor. He made no secret of his interest in the problems of labor.

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THE AFL PRESENTS . . .

"THE DRAMATIC STORY OF LABOR'S OWN SEABEES"

The Dramatic Story of Labor's Own Seabees

Over CBS—Every Saturday—3:45 P.M. E.W.T.

In the Senate, the bill was passed with only one dissenting vote. The House passed it by acclamation.